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GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1972

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	H.C.T. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.P.A.
Chief Public Health Inspector	George Stenger, M.A.P.H.I.
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To the Chairman and Members of the
Gosforth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to present the report on the health of the district for 1972.

The slight drop in population is based on the findings of the 1971 Census which shows fewer persons per dwelling than in 1961. The birth rate is again low. The death rate when adjusted for the age of the population and the institutional deaths within the district is well below the figure for England and Wales. All the statistics relating to mothers and infants are at low levels.

As any report written for 1973 is likely to be brief, this may be the last full report and the opportunity has been taken to review the history of public health in Gosforth during the last one hundred years. The first annual report available is that for 1901. This was a particularly bad year for health in the district but members may be interested to read Dr. Galbraith's report for that year.

Lastly, I would like to thank the staff of the Health Department, the other Officers of the Council, local Doctors, Health visitors and Nurses for their unfailing co-operation. The support of the members of the Council and their interest in health matters has been much appreciated.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H.C.T. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	1,739
Registrar General's estimated population	26,870
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book at 1st April, 1972	9,725
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£12,258
Rateable value at 1st April, 1972	£1,218,720

Population trends:-

1951	24,500
1956	24,810
1961	26,600
1962	26,780
1963	26,800
1964	27,410
1965	27,400
1966	27,510
1967	27,540
1968	27,520
1969	27,390
1970	27,220
1971	27,140
1972	26,870

	Numbers			Rates
	M	F	Total	
LIVE BIRTHS	175	156	331	
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population				12.3
Comparability factor			0.99	
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population				12.2
Ratio of locally adjusted birth rate to national rate				0.82
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	10	8	18	
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 live births ..				5.4
STILLBIRTHS	1	1	2	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				6.0
INFANT DEATHS (Death in the first year)	3	3	6	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				18.1
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 live illegitimate births				Nil
NEONATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first 4 weeks)	2	2	4	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births				12.1
PERINATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first week and stillbirths)	2	3	5	
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				15.0
There have been no MATERNAL DEATHS since 1960				
DEATHS	178	242	420	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population				15.6
Comparability factor			0.71	
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population				11.1
Ratio of locally adjusted death rate to national rate ...				0.92

Comparison with previous years

Year	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegi- timate Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)
1956-60	16.3	2.7	22.2	14.3	11.6	33.0	11.6
1961-65	15.8	4.3	20.4	18.6	13.3	31.8	11.7
1966-70	13.2	5.1	10.7	11.2	9.6	18.5	10.9
1971	12.7	5.1	8.4	16.9	5.7	14.0	11.4
1972	12.2	5.4	6.0	18.1	12.1	15.0	11.1

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS - 1972

	Adjusted Birth Rate	Illegal Birth Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Comparability Factors	
								Births	Deaths
England and Wales	14.8	8.5	12.0	17.3	11.5	21.7	12.1	1.00	1.00
Northumberland A.C.	14.0	6.2	10.2	15.5	12.0	19.6	12.5	1.04	1.03
Newcastle/Tyne C.B.	13.0	13.9	14.8	20.6	14.7	27.1	13.7	1.04	0.94
Gosforth U.D.	12.2	5.4	6.0	18.1	12.1	15.0	11.1	0.99	0.71
Newburn U.D.	14.5	4.3	1.6	18.0	14.7	13.1	12.2	0.95	1.27
Prudhoe U.D.	11.2	7.2	7.1	21.6	21.6	28.6	15.7	0.90	1.16
Castle Ward R.D.	9.8	3.1	-	15.4	15.4	12.4	10.4	1.10	0.68

Causes of Stillbirths

1. Intra uterine death in non viable foetus

2.. ~~Erythroblastosis~~

Rhesus incompatibility

Causes of Infant Deaths

1. Prematurity

Death in hospital at 10 minutes

2. Prematurity

" " " at 20 hours

3. (a) Gastroschisis (b) Prematurity

" " " at 3 days

4. Exomphalos

" " " at 7 days

5. Sudden infant death syndrome

Death at home at 1 month

6. Pneumonia Cot death

" " " at 3 months

Principal Causes of Death

	<u>Home</u>		<u>St. Nicholas Hospital</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cancer	63	22.0	2	1.5	65	15.5
Ischaemic heart disease	77	26.8	18	13.5	95	22.6
Cerebro vascular disease	48	16.7	15	11.3	63	15.0
Other heart and circulatory disease	31	10.8	11	8.3	42	10.0
Respiratory disease	29	10.1	64	48.1	93	22.1
All other disease	23	8.0	16	12.0	39	9.3
Accidents and suicide	<u>16</u>	5.6	<u>7</u>	5.3	<u>23</u>	5.5
	<u>287</u>		<u>133</u>		<u>420</u>	

Place of Death

	<u>Home</u>	<u>St. Nicholas Hospital</u>	<u>Other Hospitals</u>	<u>Total</u>
A. Deaths in district	143	197	2	342
*B. Outward transfers	14	66	2	82
C. Remaining in district (A-B)	129	131	-	260
*D. Inward transfers	158	2	-	160
E. Total deaths assigned to district (C + D)	287	133	-	420

*B. Persons with less than 6 months residence in the district.

*D. Mostly persons belonging to Gosforth who died in hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne.

[illegible]

[illegible]

CAUSE OF DEATH		Sex	Total all ages.	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. - 1	1- 5-	5- 15-	15- 25-	25- 35-	35- 45-	45- 55-	55- 65-	65- 75 & over
B46 (8)	Other diseases of digestive system	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
B46 (9)	Other diseases, genito- urinary system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B46 (11)	Diseases of musculo- skeletal system	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B42	Congenital anomalies	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
B43	Birth Injury, difficult Labour, etc.	F	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B45	Symptoms and ill defined conditions	F	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	M	3	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	1	2
BE48	All other accidents	F	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	-
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	9
BE50	All other external causes	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
		M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		M	178	2	1	-	3	2	3	22	23	53	69
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	F	242	2	1	-	2	1	1	8	32	52	143

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Salmonella Infections

A woman who was visiting the district was admitted to hospital with a severe illness originally thought to be typhoid. However, she was found to have an infection with *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Specimens from all contacts in the district were negative and the infection was probably acquired in London.

Another isolated case of *Salmonella typhi-murium* infection occurred. This was in a man who had probably acquired the infection from food consumed in another part of the country. Family contacts were negative.

A woman who had been on holiday in Tunisia returned with a *Salmonella thomson* infection. Family contacts were negative.

Dysentery

Three family outbreaks of *Shigella sonnei* infection occurred. One involved four members of a family of five. In another instance two children were infected.

The third outbreak involved six members of a family of seven. In all cases specimens were taken from all members of the family and infected persons were followed up until negative specimens were obtained.

A lady who had been on holiday in Tunisia was found to have an infection with *Shigella boydii* on return. She was in hospital for five days before returning to Gosforth. Specimens taken in this area were negative.

Infective Hepatitis

The four cases which were notified were all visited. All cases were sporadic and no connection could be established with any other case.

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of New Cases.

AGE	New Cases				Inward Transfers			
	Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
.5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	1	-	2	1	1	-	-
	6				2			
	8							

Comparison with previous years

Year	New Cases	Inward Transfers	Deaths
Average 1946-50	26	5	14
" 1951-55	32	11	6
" 1956-60	23	11	2
" 1960-65	13	8	1
1966	12	7	2
1967	9	4	-
1968	8	2	1
1969	6	3	-
1970	13	1	2
1971	8	1	1
1972	6	2	-

Tuberculosis Register 1972

	No. of cases on register at commencement of year		No. of cases added to register		No. of cases removed from register		No. of cases remaining	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
Males	33	3	4	-	9	-	28	3
Females	19	3	2	2	3	1	18	4

HISTORICAL NOTE

In the 1830's various Unions of Parishes were formed for the purpose of administering the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. The Gosforth area became part of the Castle Ward Union which also comprised the area of the present Castle Ward Rural District, Newburn Urban District and Kenton and Fawdon.

A Public Health Act of 1872 required the setting up of Sanitary Authorities over the whole country. The Rural Sanitary Authority of the Castle Ward Union was formed but South Gosforth was able to opt out and to form the South Gosforth local Board, which met for the first time on November 18th 1872. The reason for the separation from Castle Ward undoubtedly was the need for an adequate sewerage system in Gosforth which at that time had a population of 6000 and was already becoming a fashionable residential area.

The 1872 Act required the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health and the Board had great difficulty in finding a suitable candidate. Dr. Richard Henry Wickham was appointed in 1873, but resigned in January 1874. Dr. Thomas Thornhill was then appointed. Dr. Thornhill, however, was soon in trouble with the Board and with the local Government Board in London because he would not write reports and make the necessary returns. In 1878 the Board offered to increase his salary from £10. to £15. per annum if he would write the reports needed, but even this inducement did not have the necessary effect. There is no evidence that Dr. Thornhill took an interest in the prevalence of disease in the district and his correspondence with the Board was solely about those nuisances which he deemed injurious to health.

In the first half of the 19th century the main theory about the diseases now known to be infectious was the miasmatic theory. Disease was thought to be due to emanations from swamps or from decaying animal or vegetable matter. As the century wore on the germ theory took over. This explanation was held by some early pioneers purely on theoretical grounds, but with the discovery of bacteria by Pasteur in the 1860's and the isolation of many disease causing organisms by Koch in the 1880's, scientific proof was forthcoming. It is worth emphasising that much of the Victorian sanitary ideal was founded on miasmatic principles and it was with these seemingly that Dr. Thornhill guided the South Gosforth Local Board.

The Board made great progress with their sewerage scheme which was commenced in 1874 and completed in two years. The Board then ran into trouble at both ends of the system. Households were reluctant to connect up to the sewers and there were even houses being built without a system of drainage. At the other end the sewage had to go into the Ouseburn with a minimum of treatment, much to the annoyance of property owners in Newcastle. The situation was resolved when Newcastle Corporation built the Ouseburn Sewer around 1880.

The Board was active in other fields and had bye-laws relating to housing standards. They encouraged gas lighting of streets and at a later date did much to bring the electric tramways to Gosforth. This Board was eventually succeeded by the Gosforth Urban District Council who held their first meeting in December 1894.

/Contd...

Dr. Thornhill resigned in 1880 and was succeeded by Dr. William Galbraith, a general practitioner, who served the Council for over 50 years, only retiring in 1931. Dr. Galbraith was better at writing reports but, unfortunately, his annual reports for 1880-1900 have not been kept. The first report available is that for 1901, which is given in full. By this time the more serious diseases were notifiable and the importance of isolation was appreciated. The Council at this time possessed something called a tent hospital which was used for the isolation of smallpox cases. In the 1903 outbreak this proved unsatisfactory and an iron and wood structure was substituted. This was used in the outbreaks of 1904, 1905, 1906, and 1910. Later a brick building was erected at the foot of Hollywood Avenue and this was used in the outbreaks of 1925-28, but thereafter fell into disuse. No cases of smallpox have occurred in Gosforth since 1928.

The isolation of cases of other infectious diseases had to await the opening of the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Lemington in 1904. This 52 bedded hospital was a joint venture of Gosforth, Newburn and Castle Ward. The hospital was transferred to the Regional Hospital Board in 1948 and is now used for geriatric patients.

Cases of typhoid occurred almost every year until the early 1930s.. There is very little comment about them in the annual reports. About 50 cases of scarlet fever occurred annually and there have been 14 deaths from this cause in the present century. Diphtheria also occurred regularly with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 54 cases per annum. In the first four years of the century the fatality rate was around 20%, but thereafter diminished to a third of this figure. Diphtheria immunisation commenced in 1935 and was the responsibility of this Council until 1948. By the end of 1936 only 600 children were immunised and it was not until the campaign of 1941 that the majority of children were protected. After the War cases rapidly diminished and since 1950 only two cases have occurred.

Two cases of poliomyelitis occurred in 1921 and then there was a gap until 1946 when 5 cases occurred. There were then cases most years up till 1956. 1950 was the worst year with 8 cases. Salk vaccine became available in 1956 and Sabin oral vaccine in 1961. There were two cases in 1962 and none since.

In the first 20 years of this century 10-15% of all deaths were due to tuberculosis. Although the tubercle bacillus was discovered by Koch in 1882, phthisis was for long thought to be a degenerative disease and it was not until the second decade of this century that preventive measures became general. Dr. Galbraith for many years advocated that a "bungalow sanatorium" should be provided by Gosforth Council for the treatment and education in hygiene of poor tuberculous patients. In fact, the responsibility for dealing with tuberculosis was given to the County Council who were very slow to provide facilities. Barrasford and Wooley Sanatoriums were in use by 1920 as was the Stannington Children's Hospital. By that time also Gosforth patients were able to attend the tuberculosis dispensary at Wallsend.

The transformation of the tuberculosis position in the 1950's with chemotherapeutic treatment, BCG vaccine and the improvement in nutritional and housing standards is recent enough not to need a detailed account.

Maternity and Child Welfare in Gosforth were the responsibility of the Council until 1948. The enormous mortality in infancy at the beginning of the century in spite of all the improvements in sanitation led most observers to the conclusion that mothers had to be instructed in hygiene and the nurture of their infants. The first health visitor, Miss Mina McGregor, was appointed in 1915 and a welfare centre was opened in 1917. The Council employed a midwife from 1917 until 1922, but this appointment was terminated when the Gosforth Nursing Association was able to take over responsibility.

The Clinic, Church Road, Gosforth, was erected and equipped by public subscription as a War Memorial and was opened by the Duke of Northumberland in 1925. This centre, which was transferred to the County Council in 1948, has been well used for ante natal care and child welfare for the last 48 years. In 1925 Mr. Harvey Evers was holding an ante natal clinic and in the same year Dr. Glen Davison succeeded Dr. Helen Gurney as child welfare medical officer. A part-time dental surgeon, Mr. A.N. Laing, was later appointed. Miss Dickinson was appointed second health visitor in 1934.

In 1931 the arrangements for dealing with maternity cases were extended and the Council made it possible for a practitioner to obtain the services of a consulting obstetrician in any maternity case whether ante natal or intra or post partum. The arrangement also provided for the hospital accommodation of any such patient if this was desirable.

In 1937 a scheme was brought into force where the Council were prepared to pay a fee not exceeding 10/6d. to the Women's Welfare Clinic (Birth Control) in Newcastle in respect of each married woman in necessitous circumstances who applied for birth control facilities and in whose case it is certified by a medical practitioner that further pregnancies would be detrimental to health. This scheme was not a success as the women thought most eligible were reluctant to attend.

The Council were responsible for the ambulance service until 1948. In 1920 there were three ambulances, one for general cases, one for smallpox and one for other infectious diseases. Later, the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital had its own ambulance. In the 1930's the ambulance was situated in the fire station and the service came under the Fire Officer.

Dr. Galbraith retired in 1931. All his successors were full time Public Health Officers who held the post of Medical Officer of Health of Gosforth along with others. Dr. A.I. Messer 1931-32 was County Bacteriologist, Dr. W.L.N. Gabriel 1932-37 was County Tuberculosis Officer and Dr. W.H. Dickinson was also a Tuberculosis specialist. Dr. Madge Hopper 1948-64 was Medical Officer of Health for Newburn, Prudhoe and Castle Ward, and Area Executive Medical Officer for the South Area of Northumberland.

To write something of the progress in environmental health is difficult but a few facts have been taken from the annual reports. Gosforth has from the beginning had a large proportion of substantially built houses and has not had the housing problems of most other neighbouring authorities. Under different enactments slum clearance has been going on for a hundred years. From the very beginning also the Council have been imposing standards on new building. One aspect not nowadays associated with public health is the making up of roads and pathways and the paving of yardspaces. In the early days when yards were unpaved and drainage was absent a considerable nuisance could arise. Indeed, outbreaks of typhoid have been thought to be due to contaminated soil around houses.

The mains supply from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company has always been available to Gosforth. Reference has already been made to the construction of a sewerage system in the 1870's. This was renewed in 1911. At this time there were 3341 dwellings in Gosforth.

2708 had W.C.'s

301 had combined privies and ash closets

23 had ash closets

There were no pail closets. The deficit presumably means that around 600 families had shared W.C.'s or closets.

In the early 1900's refuse collection was in the hands of contractors. By 1920 direct labour was being used in the Coxlodge area and the Council possessed a motor refuse vehicle. It was not until 1932 that the direct labour system was in use throughout the area. In 1926 refuse was collected from moveable dustbins twice or thrice per week. Dry ashpits were emptied every four weeks and combined privies and ashpits, and ash closets, once every two weeks.

Supervision of food began in the 1880's with regulations relating to milk production and distribution. In 1908 there were 11 dairies and 7 cowkeepers in the area. In the same year there were 6 slaughterhouses in Gosforth. The small number of factories in the area were regularly inspected.

The enormous progress in health in the last hundred years should not induce a feeling of complacency. Much remains to be done. Whilst acute infectious disease is no longer a major problem, chronic ill health in middle and old age are presenting new challenges and will be much more difficult to tackle. On the environmental side it is good to see the great interest that has been aroused over recent years, although at times one wishes that those who have recently 'discovered' the environment would recognise that health departments have been engaged in this work for over a century.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1901

Gentlemen,

It will be as well in presenting to you the Annual report, for the year 1901, to pursue the usual course and, firstly, give you the figures concerning the vital statistics. At all ages, and from all causes, 249 deaths were registered in the district, but from these 96 deaths occurring in the Asylum, and 4 in the Chadwick Memorial, and Cripples Home, have to be deducted, which leaves 149 to be considered as belonging to our district, against 128 for the year 1900 and which when calculated on a population of 10,000 people gives a death rate of 14.9 per 1,000 of population, a slight decrease from that of last year when the death rate was 15.5, but still above our average.

You will observe from the following tables the number of deaths at all ages for each year, for the past three years, giving the mortality at various ages.

	<u>1901</u>	<u>1900</u>	<u>1899</u>
Under 1 year	61	41	29
1 and under 5 years	13	15	12
5 " " 15 "	4	2	6
15 " " 25 "	10	9	6
25 " " 65 "	42	42	28
65 and upwards	19	19	23

There were 61 deaths under one year giving an infantile mortality of 203.3, largely in increase of any past year, and a percentage of the total number of deaths of 42.2 against that of 35.7 for 1900, this considerable increase is no doubt largely due to the infantile mortality from diarrhoea, which we had during the month of August and September when there were 16 deaths. There were also 8 deaths from premature birth. Those who died between the ages of 25 and 65 were 42 in number giving a percentage of 18.1 whilst those of 65 and upwards 19 in number give a percentage of 12.7 against 13.2 for 1900 and 30.2 for 1899.

The two districts, Coxlodge and East Gosforth, with populations nearly equal when compared with one another present no great marked feature. Coxlodge had 25 deaths, 10 of which were under one year, and 5 of which died from diarrhoea. East Gosforth had 33 deaths with 13 under one year 4 of which died from diarrhoea.

Deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, and heart, were 35 in number, the same as in 1900 and consisted of heart 10, pneumonia 6, bronchitis 5, phthisis 8, and other diseases of respiratory organs 6, giving a percentage of the total number of deaths of 23.8 against 27.3 for 1900. It is worthy of note that the deaths from phthisis or consumption were only 8 in number, compared to that of 11 for the previous year and gives a percentage of 5.3

Zymotic diseases. The deaths included in this class were measles 1, scarletina 2, whooping cough 8, diphtheria 3, enteric or typhoid 5, and diarrhoea 18, making a total of 37 against 11 for 1900, and giving a zymotic mortality of 3.7 per 1,000 of population and a percentage of 24.8 against a zymotic death rate for the previous year of 1.5 with a percentage of 11. The increase of deaths in this class as has been pointed out, in the infantile death rate, is due to the greater number of deaths from diarrhoea, the figures being 18 for 1901, and 2 for 1900, whooping cough, caused 8 against 2 for 1900.

During the year 37 cases of Scarletina were notified, 2 of which died, the disease was the more prevalent in the months of February, when we had 5, March 8, April 16. In the month of December there were no cases, the only month throughout the year. The disease continues of a very mild type, some of the cases reaching the period of desquamation before they are recognised as Scarletina, and in this way affording ample opportunities for its spread.

Measles. This affliction was somewhat prevalent at East Gosforth and caused one death.

Diphtheria. Five cases of this disease were reported throughout the district causing 3 deaths. In connection with this disease, I might add that 2 of the cases occurred in Ashfield Terrace, a locality to which I have already drawn your attention, where the children in this neighbourhood play around the ventilating manhole of the main sewer, surrounding the homes. Of the other cases nothing insanitary was found with the exception of one in Elmfield Road where the drains from the house to the main sewer were stopped.

Diarrhoea. On account of the fine and very warm weather which prevailed in the month of August and the early part of September, diarrhoea was very common, indeed, became quite an epidemic and was responsible for 18 deaths, 16 infants, and 2 adults. However much mothers in their ignorance, in the mode of feeding children, and in domestic sanitation, may be to blame for a large infantile mortality, one cannot but recognise the fact, that in those localities, where the old type of privy and ashpits exist, that there the disease is not only more prevalent, but also more fatal.

Typhoid. During the Autumn in the months of September and October, 15 cases of typhoid were notified, 14 of which were at Coxlodge, and 1 at Beaumont Terrace. The case in Beaumont Terrace was probably contracted in Jesmond while pursuing her occupation there. Of the 14 cases at Coxlodge, it was somewhat difficult to state decidedly the cause or origin of the first cases, but I have no doubt that following the epidemic of diarrhoea, which was marked in this locality, a slight

case of typhoid may have been unnoticed and I have every reason for suspecting so, where the evacuations instead of being properly disinfected before being disposed of were thrown into the ashpit, the dust from which may have found its way into the house, poisoning their milk and food, at all events when each ashpit was thoroughly disinfected and white washed once a week, and instructions given for the proper disinfecting and disposal of the typhoid evacuations the disease soon abated. In connection with this outbreak I was surprised to find in new houses recently built, that the old style of ashpit and privy had been constructed, both of which were covered in with no means of ventilation. I am confident that had W.C.'s been erected here instead of the obsolete privy that no such epidemic could have occurred.

During the year the amount of work that has been accomplished has been fair. I have systematically visited throughout the district, and besides giving attention to the requirements of infectious cases, have in conjunction with your Inspector visited and reported, on various nuisances with which your Inspector has more particularly dealt with in detail, such as W.C.'s, manure heaps, etc., etc. During the year 38 notices were served for the abatement of nuisances, 98 new houses were constructed and finished, and 82 were in course of erection, and plans were approved of, for 170 new houses.

Scavenging. Scavenging is not yet carried out in a satisfactory manner, complaints are somewhat frequent, not only at the inadequate manner in which the ashpits are emptied, but at the lack of promptitude displayed by the Contractors engaged in this work. I hope however that those who are doing this work will, as they become more accustomed to it, be able to accomplish it more expeditiously. One feels that the time will come when the introduction of wooden tubs for the disposal of all refuse will become a necessity.

It is most important in a rapidly growing community such as this, where in the course of a few more years, we shall probably have by the aid of its new and most recent importation of "Electric tram car locomotion", a population of 20,000 people, that sanitation should not only be sound and excellent, but of a judicious and progressive character, meeting the requirements of the district, with sanitary work of a permanent nature. Although we have a small hospital at hand for infectious cases, and more especially for small-pox, should we meet with it, I am glad to think that a conjoint hospital, for infectious cases, is in contemplation and I hope will soon be commenced with. A steam disinfector by which all clothes and bed clothes can be properly disinfected must be kept in view, and also a refuse destructor, for the carting of refuse a distance of a mile or more especially in summer weather cannot be considered compatible with public health.

During the year there were 300 births, 152 boys and 148 girls, which is equal to a birth rate of 30 per 1,000 of population, against 281 and a birth rate of 33 for 1900.

I am,
Yours truly,
Wm. Galbraith,
Medical Officer of Health.

Gosforth.
April 9th. 1902.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1972

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege once more to prepare and submit for your kind consideration my report on the work of the Health Department in the field of environmental hygiene.

There were no changes during the year in either the inspectorial staff or the clerical staff. Mr. Taylor, the Technical Assistant, appointed in July 1970, is now well established and playing a major role in our smoke control programme. In the very early part of 1973 the staff will be augmented by an additional Technical Assistant and I can confidently anticipate an even greater acceleration of our efforts in this particular field.

During the year the Council resolved to take action under Part III of the Housing Act 1957 by declaring the Riddell Terrace and Lambert Square area to be a Clearance Area. Similar action was taken in connection with the Henry Street area.

No effort has been spared to achieve the highest standards of hygiene in food shops including mobile food shops. In this connection Mr. Gibson, my Additional Inspector, has been particularly active and forever vigilant.

The administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 has again claimed a good deal of your Inspectors' attention. Our efforts have been solely directed towards looking after the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in office or shop premises.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district has a piped water supply, provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. Once again I am greatly indebted to Dr. A.T. Palin, Chief Chemist to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, for supplying the following information.

Bacteriological Examination.

One thousand and thirty-six works control samples from Whittle Dene and Throckley were examined in the Company's laboratory; all were "satisfactory" save one which proved "satisfactory" after checking.

Two hundred and forty-six samples of the water from the Coquet Water Board's Warkworth plant taken at the Longbenton Governor House (Sandy Lane) and fifty-two samples of the water leaving the works were also examined; all were "satisfactory".

The Urban District of Gosforth is supplied with water from both Warkworth and Whittle Dene/Throckley. During the year twelve samples were taken in the district; all were "satisfactory".

Chemical Examination.

There were no significant changes in the average chemical composition of the water supplied for domestic consumption.

Fluoridation was practised at the Whittle Dene and at the Henderson (Throckley) Filter Plants. The concentration of fluoride ion was maintained at 1.0 milligrammes per litre, the optimum dose for the promotion of dental health.

Typical Results of Chemical Analyses of Filtered Waters

	<u>Max</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Mean</u>
pH Value	7.7	7.0	7.2
Free CO ₂	16	2	6
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	160	60	90
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)			
Total	200	100	150
Carbonate	160	60	90
Non-Carbonate	80	30	60
Calcium	190	70	120
Magnesium	60	20	30
Chlorides (as Cl)	17	9	12
Sulphates (as SO ₄)	70	20	50
Silica (as SiO ₂)	4.2	0.8	2.4
Fluorides (as F)	1.1	0.9	1.0
Iron (as Fe)	0.25	0.01	0.07
Manganese (as Mn)	0.05	0.01	0.01
Free & Saline Ammonia (as N)	0.23	0.04	0.12
Albuminoid Ammonia (as N)	0.20	0.01	0.09
Nitrates (as N)	2.0	0.1	0.8
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	3.4	1.0	2.0
Dissolved Solids	280	130	210

Chemical results in milligrams per litre.

NOTES:

1. Over much of the distribution system the water is a blend of the products of the principal treatment plants.
2. These plants in turn receive water in variable proportions from the several sources utilised by the Company.
3. It is therefore difficult to predict the composition of the supply to any particular point and the maxima and minima quoted are not to be regarded as absolute values but rather as limits not likely to be exceeded in normal circumstances.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse Collection.

Except for public holiday periods it was possible to maintain a weekly collection of refuse from all premises. With the ever increasing rate of sickness amongst the manual staff this was no mean achievement.

As reported in my previous report the tendency for the refuse to become less dense and produce more bulk continues. This situation will be intensified as our smoke control programme gathers momentum with its attendant reduction in the number of open fires. In my opinion, however, the mass of "refuse" could be appreciably reduced if the public would become "salvage conscious". The demand for the removal of bulky articles such as unwanted furniture, pianos, television sets, cookers and refrigerators, was again fantastic. There would appear to be very little desire on the part of Gosforth residents to take advantage of the facilities afforded by the Longbenton Council enabling residents to dispose of domestic refuse at the Longbenton tip, free of charge.

Refuse Disposal.

Tipping operations continued at the site on the old Coast Road situated in the Urban District of Longbenton. The number of loads deposited at the site from Gosforth was 3782, a reduction of 294 loads upon the previous year. There can be no doubt that the reduction in loads, despite the ever increasing volume is directly attributable to the purchasing of larger capacity vehicles.

I am informed by Mr. Thirkell, Chief Public Health Inspector for Longbenton Urban District Council, that the present site will provide tipping space for both Authorities until the early part of 1974.

It is indeed gratifying to record that Longbenton Council has afforded tipping facilities to Gosforth Council for over twenty years. This fine neighbourly action on the part of Longbenton Council has prevented this Council from being faced with a problem of some magnitude.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of Longbenton Urban District Council for their extreme generosity in affording these facilities. In like manner I would also like to pay tribute to Mr. Thirkell and to his predecessor, Mr. Lockey.

Salvage Disposal.

Owing to an improvement in the trading situation the Board Mills removed the 20% restriction on intake which they introduced in October, 1971. However, the situation was still in a state of fluctuation and during the mid-summer period there was a further deterioration in the trading situation which resulted in some minor restriction in the forwarding of supplies.

The Company was, however, optimistic that the situation would again improve later in the year. This optimism appeared to be well founded as towards the end of the year they announced a price increase ranging from 25p per tonne to 75p per tonne in the price paid by the Company, and an indication that they were prepared to receive additional tonnage of waste paper. The quantity of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1973, was 244 tonnes. This was rather disappointing and represented 0.76 tonnes per month per thousand of population.

Overall the amount forwarded to the Board Mills was the same as that forwarded in the previous year. However, the tonnage so far as it related to grading of waste paper showed a marked difference. There was a 15% increase in the tonnage of mixed waste paper as against a reduction of 85% of newsprint.

The tonnage of paper, together with the respective grades forwarded to the Board Mills, and the income received from the sale thereof, is shown as follows :-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tonnes</u>	<u>£ . p</u>
Mixed Paper	239.32	2484 . 55
Newsprint	<u>4.60</u>	<u>57 . 50</u>
	<u>243.92</u>	<u>£2542 . 05</u>

Manual Staff.

It was with deep regret that during the year I reported the death of Mr. Bishton, the Health Department Foreman. Mr. Bishton, who had been in ill-health for some time, was an extremely conscientious workman. He entered the service of the Council in April 1932.

The sickness rate amongst the manual staff continued to increase although not with the significance as that of the previous year. The number of man-hours lost through sickness amounted to over six thousand.

As on previous occasions I am pleased to record my sincere appreciation of the efforts of my Foreman, Mr. J. Gill, and the manual staff.

HOUSING

The Council resolved to declare the Riddell Terrace and Lambert Square area a Clearance Area under Part III of the Housing Act 1957. A similar resolution was made in connection with the Henry Street area.

This action on the part of the Council is the direct result of very active and persistent efforts on the part of your Inspectors and it may well be said that the last chapter has been written in the life of these properties.

During the year a further thirty-two applications for Qualification Certificates were received bringing the total received up to four hundred and fifty-three. During this same period thirty-three Qualification Certificates were issued, involving just over one hundred visits.

There was a sharp increase in the number of applications received for Improvement Grants and a corresponding decrease in the number of applications received for Standard Grants.

There can be no doubt that the generous terms associated with Improvement Grants decided the course of action taken.

Housing Statistics.

New houses completed during the year

a) By Local Authority	Nil
b) By private persons	9
Total number of inhabited houses	9442

Closing and demolition

Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
Houses closed not in Clearance Areas	1

REPAIR

Houses made fit

a) By informal action	39
b) By owners, following Statutory action	1

Slum Clearance Programme

Housing Act 1957

Part <u>III</u> Houses still to be cleared	110
Part <u>II</u> Houses likely to be subject to demolition or closing orders	Nil

Housing Act 1969-71
Discretionary Grants

Applications submitted to local authority	175
Improvements completed by the end of the year	66
Approximate average grant approved per house	£469

Standard Grants

	<u>During the</u> <u>year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>date</u>
1. No. of separate houses for which grants have been made	11	242
2. No. of houses so provided with -		
(a) Bath or shower	11	126
(b) Wash-hand basin	10	146
(c) Hot water supply	10	145
(d) Internal water closet	16	211

ESTIMATES OF CONDITION OF HOUSING
STOCK IN MID-1972

<u>Number of dwellings</u>	
<u>Owned by local</u> <u>authority</u>	<u>Other</u> <u>ownership</u>

Unfit dwellings

1. In <u>areas</u> already declared under Part <u>III</u> Housing Act, 1957	Nil	110
2. In <u>other</u> areas to be declared under Part <u>III</u> Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
3. Not in Part <u>III</u> areas	Nil	Nil
4. Total of unfit dwellings	Nil	110

Dwellings not unfit

5. Up to 12 point standard	2181	6621
6. Capable of improvement to 12 point standard	-	453
7. Not capable of improvement to 12 point standard	-	-
<u>Total dwellings in the area</u>	<u>2181</u>	<u>7184</u>

AIR POLLUTION

During the year the Clerk of the Council, together with your Chief Public Health Inspector and the Additional Public Health Inspector, appeared before a panel set up by the Clean Air Council in conjunction with the Department of the Environment to consider progress in domestic control in the northern region.

The terms of reference of the Panel were as follows :-

"To examine the progress of domestic smoke control in the "black" areas of the Northern Region, to suggest improvements insofar as practicable, and to advise the Clean Air Council upon any further steps which should be taken to this end."

At the meeting the Council were asked to consider the preparation of a smoke control programme covering the whole of the urban district.

A plan, designed to meet the requirements of the Panel was prepared by the Health Department and submitted to, and approved by, the Council. This plan showed the division of the district into ten smoke control areas and allowed for the whole of the district to be smokeless by 1977.

At the end of the year three areas had been confirmed, one area had been submitted to the Department of the Environment for confirmation, and another area had been approved by the Council for submission to the Department of the Environment. These five areas cover approximately 55% of the whole of the district and it is anticipated that if the present programme is adhered to, approximately 75% of the district would be covered by the 1st April 1974.

NOISE ABATEMENT

The number of noise nuisances received in the department throughout the year was five. These were of a varying type, with only two of the alleged nuisances being associated with business premises. One of the latter nuisances resulted from the operation of extractor fans at a large bakery. The directors of the bakery called in a firm of consultants who were able to advise on measures to be adopted in abating the nuisance. These were duly carried out and the noise level was reduced to a minimum. The other noise nuisance, associated with a business premises, resulted from the operation of a cooling plant at a private members club. This matter was still being investigated at the end of the year. Other nuisances involved excessive barking of dogs and an alleged noise from a central heating system. An unusual complaint alleged a noise nuisance from the operation of the collapsible plates situated at the entrance and exit of the Central Park car park. Measures taken to abate the nuisance involved the renewing of the rubber strips inside the metal boxes. Owing to the rapid wear of these strips, it would appear that the above remedial measures will have to be applied at very regular intervals.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND DRAIN TESTING

Activity in this rather important field, i.e. the supervision of the layout and testing of new drainage systems, and similar duties in connection with the repair and reconstruction of existing systems, was on a greater scale than in the previous year.

A total of eight hundred and fifty-two yards of new drainage was tested necessitating the application of one hundred and twenty-four water tests and six smoke tests.

The work was fairly equally divided between the construction of new buildings and drainage operations in connection with improvement of existing buildings.

The Engineer and Surveyor informs me that during the year his department dealt with one hundred and fifty-three drain stoppages.

DISINFESTATION

There was a slight increase in the number of complaints received in connection with infestation of properties. As in previous years, the wasp and the cockroach proved to be the most troublesome. The number of complaints received was seventy-three and, of this total, wasps accounted for twenty-six of the complaints, and the cockroach twenty-one. Altogether, twelve different species were dealt with. I am happy to record that there were no complaints of bed bugs.

Once again I must record my grateful thanks to the Regional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for prompt attention given to requests for identification of insects and for his advice in matters of extermination. Group meetings convened by the Ministry to discuss various aspects of pest control have again proved most interesting and informative.

RODENT INFESTATION

The number of complaints received during the year showed a slight decrease, one hundred and twenty as against one hundred and twenty-nine the previous year. The number of premises involved was one hundred and thirty-two and, of these, forty-five were found to be infested with rats and twenty-nine infested with mice. There was no evidence of any infestation in the remaining fifty-eight houses, and all infestations found were minor in character.

The rodenticides used were Warfarin and Alphakil, the latter again proving very successful in connection with infestations of mice.

The majority of business premises continue to be regularly serviced by servicing agents. This is a very wise and necessary precaution, particularly in connection with food premises.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Since this Act came into force your Inspectors have applied themselves most assiduously to promote the ideals of this Act, i.e. to secure the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in office or shop premises.

Even now, nearly ten years after its inception, certain occupiers tend to regard this important branch of legislation in a rather nonchalant manner. However, it is pleasing to record that the number of contraventions found was considerably reduced. This was particularly evident in connection with lighting of premises, where the number of contraventions was reduced from fifty-two to ten. Nevertheless, no less than five different types of contraventions reached "double figures", with cleanliness heading the list. It is disturbing to note that ten contraventions were found in connection with the fencing of exposed parts of machinery.

During the year two cases of persistent infringements of the provisions of the Act were reported to the Committee, and it was agreed that prosecutions be instituted in each case. These were subsequently withdrawn when the firms concerned had taken the necessary action to comply with the Act.

Ten accidents, eight of which occurred in retail shops, were reported. Six of the accidents occurring in retail shops were due to falls of persons. None of the accidents proved to be fatal.

It was found necessary on occasions to ask advice from the officer appointed under Section 57 of the Act in order to apply the requirements of the Act in a uniform manner, particularly with regard to multiple firms operating within the district. In this area the officer is the Deputy Superintendent of Factories with whom joint inspections of premises have been carried out and subsequent discussions have proved useful in the application of the Act.

Registrations and General Inspections

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	8	136	90
Retail shops	11	157	112
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	3	1
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	1	20	20
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	20	316	223

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS TO REGISTERED PREMISES - 443

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	2093
Retails Shops	613
Wholesale departments, warehouses	35
Catering establishments open to the public	213
Canteens	64
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	3018
Total Males	1374
Total Females	1644

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 19	13	Sitting facilities -
5	Overcrowding -	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) 1
6	Temperature 1	15	Eating facilities -
7	Ventilation -	16	Floors, passages & stairs 5
8	Lighting 10	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery 10
9	Sanitary conveniences 5	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery 1
10	Washing facilities 14	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery 1
11	Supply of drinking water -	23	Prohibition of heavy work -
12	Clothing accommodation -	24	First-aid 14
			Hoists and Lifts 4
			Other matters 16
			TOTAL 101

Analysis of reported accidents

CAUSATION	Offices	Retail shops	Catering establishments open to public, canteens
Machinery	1	1	-
Transport	-	-	-
Falls of persons	-	6	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	-	-
Handling goods	1	1	-
Struck by falling object	-	-	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	-
Electricity	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified	-	-	-

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

During the year five samples of water, two from the teaching pool and three from the main pool, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The result of the examination showed that the probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. in each sample, was nil.

I am indebted to the Baths Superintendent for the following additional information.

No. Samples	pH Value		Combined Residual Chlorine		Free Residual Chlorine		Total Residual Chlorine	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
2,400	7.4	7.8	1.0	4.0	0.2	2.0	0.8	4.5

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1

Inspections.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	20	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	4	Nil	Nil
Total	69	24	Nil	Nil

Factories Act 1961

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	to H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Factories Act 1961

PART VII

(OUTWORK)

(Sections 133 & 134)

	Section 133	Section 134			
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) making apparel) etc. cleaning and washing	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970.

Food Premises.

There are one hundred and forty-seven food premises in the district, details of which are described in the following table :-

Type of Premises	No.	Type of Premises	No.
General Dealers	33	Premises with 'off-Licence'	7
Licensed Premises	26	Fried Fish & Chips	6
Meat Purveyors	16	Cafes, Snack-Bars	9
Confectioners	18	Fishmongers & Poulterers	3
Retail Bakers	13	Bakehouses	3
Fruiterers	13		

A total of two hundred and seven visits were made to the various food premises in the district, subsequent to which it was found necessary to serve thirty-seven informal notices in connection with infringements of the Regulations.

In an endeavour to achieve a high standard of hygiene in food premises, every effort was made to secure the willing co-operation of both managers and staff alike, emphasis being placed on persuasion rather than compulsion. In my opinion, the adoption of this policy throughout the years has been very rewarding. The standard of hygiene has remained very high and I cannot recall any evidence of any gross disregard of the Regulations.

Nevertheless, despite the foregoing, legal proceedings were taken against a food trader for smoking in a food room where there was open food, and for not wearing sufficient clean and washable overclothing whilst engaged in the handling of open food. He was fined £25. on each charge, plus £5. costs.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Section 16 (Registration of food premises).

Four new applications for the registration of food premises were received during the year. There were seven deletions from the register.

Sixty-six premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream, and twenty-seven for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, intended for sale.

The type and number of food premises registered as aforesaid is shown as follows :-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises	No. Regd.
General Dealers	30	Fruiterers	7
Confectioners	15	'Off-Licence'	5
Meat Purveyors	10	Bakohouses	3
Retail Bakers	6	Cafe, Snack-Bars	4
Fried Fish & Chips	6	Fishmongers	1

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

The quest for good standards of food hygiene in the mobile food trader was carried out with the same zeal as that applied to the normal food premises. A total of forty-three inspections of mobile food traders was carried out, resulting in the service of eighteen informal notices.

Legal proceedings were instituted against two mobile food traders for contraventions under the Regulations. One trader was fined £15. on each of six charges, and the other trader was fined £25. on each of two charges. The contraventions were mainly concerned with washing facilities, cleanliness and the placing of food so as to involve a risk of contamination.

Poultry Inspection.

There are no poultry processing establishments in the urban district of Gosforth.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Section 2. (General protection for purchasers of food and drugs).

Section 8. (Sale, etc. of food unfit for human consumption).

During the year fifteen complaints were received in connection with the sale of food intended for human consumption. The complainants were of the opinion that the food was unfit for human consumption or, alternatively, that it was not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser.

Legal proceedings were instituted in connection with six of these complaints. The results of these proceedings are as follows :-

Sale of a jar of salad cream containing fragments of glass	Fined £50. plus £5. costs
Sale of a jar of marmalade containing fragments of glass	Fined £45. plus £5. costs
Sale of frozen cream cake containing two flies	Fined £35. plus £6. costs
Sale of a fruit pie in a mouldy condition	Fined £30. plus £5. costs
Sale of a loaf of bread in a mouldy condition	Fined £20. plus £5. costs
Sale of a chocolate cream cake containing a used matchstick	Fined £5. plus £6. costs

Apropos the sale of food in a mouldy condition, it would appear that some food traders are still disregarding the need for proper stock rotation of perishable foods.

Unsound Food (voluntarily surrendered).

A total of just over three cwts. of canned foods, including fifty pounds of canned meat, were voluntarily surrendered. In addition, owing to cabinet breakdown nearly 1900 packets of frozen foods were voluntarily surrendered.

Adulteration of Food.

I am indebted to Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures, Northumberland County Council, for supplying me with details of samples taken by his sampling officers in the Urban District of Gosforth during the year under review.

Mr. Arlidge informs me that one hundred and twenty-seven samples were procured, of which one was found not to be satisfactory.

Particulars of unsatisfactory sample

<u>Article</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Butter Shortbread	Contained 25.5% fat of which 50% was butterfat. The description "Butter Shortbread" implies that the biscuits are made entirely from butter with no other fat. After enquiries, the manufacturers agreed to omit the word "Butter" from the shortbread labels.

TABLE 1.

(Complaints received and dealt with)

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>No. of Complaints</u>
Dampness (Dwelling House)	21
Defective Drains	4
Disrepair (Dwelling House)	21
Extraneous matter in food	15
Foul Smells	12
Noise Nuisances	5
Vermin (Insects)	74
Vermin (Rats)	67
Vermin (Mice)	53
Miscellaneous	35
Total	<u>307</u>

TABLE 11

(Summary of Visits)

Accumulations	8
Dwelling Houses	388
Ditches and Streams	3
Drainage Systems	144
Drain Tests:-	
Smoke	6
Water	124
Factories (Mechanical)	20
Factories (Outworkers)	3
Food Complaints	15
Food - Examination of	19
Food Premises	207
Infectious Disease Enquiries	40
Infectious Disease Disinfections	2
Infectious Disease Revisits	12
Improvement Grants	156
Launderettes	1
Licensed Premises	20
Mobile Shops etc.	43
Noise Nuisances	16
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	223
Qualification Certificates	157
Rodent Infestation:	
Rats	551
Mice	321
Refuse Collection Supervision	447
Schools re Sanitation	4
Smoke Control (Volumetric Gauge)	210
Smoke Control Areas	2430
Verminous Premises	91
Water Samples	4
Workplaces	9
Miscellaneous	<u>343</u>
Total :	<u>6017</u>

CONCLUSION

I am indeed grateful to the Chairman of the Council and to the Chairman of the Health Committee, and to all other members of the Council, for their kind support throughout the year. For the courteous manner in which my reports to the various Committees have been received and dealt with, I am equally grateful.

My sincere thanks are due to the Clerk of the Council and to Dr. Smith and to all other Chief Officers for their sincere co-operation and practical help in the many and varied matters dealt with throughout the year.

I have nothing but praise and admiration for all members of my staff for their very commendable efforts throughout the year. It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to their loyalty.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

. Your Obedient Servant,

GEORGE STENGER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

